



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY**

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## Important note regarding dental coverage for pregnant adults, long-term care clients

**July 1, 2011**

The adult dental coverage changes this biennium to include pregnant women and those covered under certain long-term care circumstances will be effective October 1. However, if the changes can be set in place earlier, the Health Care Authority will notify providers via listserv of a new effective date.

The coverage issue involves the need to update the Medicaid state plan and to establish the new benefit eligibility under Washington's Administrative Code. The agency must provide dentists a valid way of knowing the client is recognized as pregnant or under the long-term care waiver so they know what benefit the patient is entitled to and that the department can correctly adjudicate the claim for payment. If they render the more comprehensive set of services to a woman who isn't pregnant but claiming to be pregnant they will not get paid.

The Medicaid program continues to provide full scope dental coverage to all children (age 20 and below), including women in that age group who are pregnant. Children and adults with developmentally disabilities are eligible for full dental coverage. All clients regardless of age are eligible for emergency oral services related to trauma, infection or pain.